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GLIMMER OF HOPE

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OTTAWA AND LONDON LETTERS

From Our Own Correspondents.

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FIFTH SUNDAY
MEETING ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA

MONTREAL, MAY 29th, 1920

Vol. 2, No. 22

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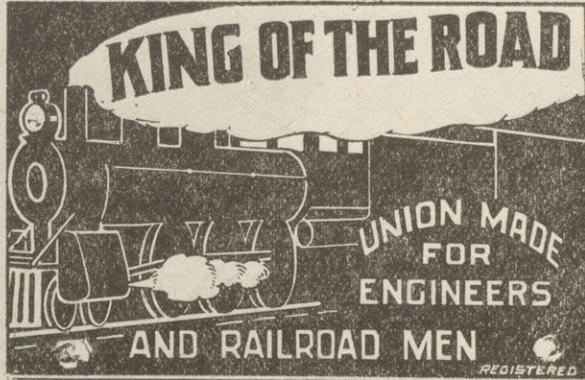
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Budget Burdens -- And a Glimmer of Hope

(By George Pierce.)

CONSTERNATION and unlimited amazement followed the spectacular public presentation of the Budget. The presentiment was general that taxation would be stiffly increased and widely spread, but even our most noted pessimist failed to imagine the drastic levies that have resulted. It is a noteworthy fact that taxation has been increased by some seventy million dollars. Interviews with prominent business men, published broad-cast throughout the country, evenly indicate that the great bulk of the new taxation will be passed on and into the consuming public. If we bear in mind that it is hardly possible under the present price ranges for the masses of the people to purchase the bare necessities of life, then we must recognize that added burdens can only be borne with groans. The tendency of the taxation certainly adds to the cost of living. With potatoes at \$7.50 a bag, of which \$6.00 per bag go to farmers,

and the other necessities of life advancing in like proportion, life is becoming a torture to the multitude.

We feel a certain admiration for the political courage of the Finance Minister and members of the Cabinet who have adopted the policy of "pay as you go", rather than the expedient and orthodox political policy of mortgaging future generations with billions of dollars of debt contracted by us. It is perhaps better that each generation should solve its own problems and pay its own bills. We have no right to plaster a mortgage on a baby's back just when it lights the home for the first time with its dimpled smile. The principle of the Budget in this regard is therefore sound.

Candid recognition of the fact that the people of the Dominion, numbering about 1,600,000 bread winners and producers, owe three billion dollars, is nervously disquieting. The national anxiety is considerably heightened by the radical changes in the world of finance and commerce. The sudden contraction of loans by the banks are resulting in a vast disgorging of merchandise which is shaking industry into wild convulsions. If this squeeze should proceed into the future along the same radical lines, there will be a tremendous upheaval among our manufacturing establishments which will throw thousands of workers out of employment. The workingman out of employment is a very poor subject from which to extract heavy taxation. The violent and artificial deflation now in process of development, is just as radical and unsound, in my opinion, as was the tremendous inflation caused by a superabundance of money which was loaned with such generosity during the last three years to any merchant who wished to speculate in the world's commodities. The one was responsible for the artificial prosperity and the other will produce an artificial depression. Both represent the extreme swings of the pendulum, and extremities are always dangerous.

In the gloomy picture there is one bright spot because it is based on sound economic thought. I refer to the project backed by our public-spirited and experienced Canadians to colonize twenty million acres in the West. In our forests, in the mines, in the fisheries, in the coal fields and on the farms, we are possessed of enormous wealth-wealth which can wipe out our entire national debt, relieve us of taxation and reinstate us on a sound basis. All the things that the people need in order to live and which may be subdivided in three great divisions of food, clothing and shelter, can be ripped from the great storehouse that nature has provided and brought to the suffering people if

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we will all concentrate our efforts and dedicate ourselves to the fulfilment of this single purpose. The Canadian people possess the brains, the brawn and the energy, the tenacity and the courage, to successfully execute this mighty work. The first and the essential thing is to recognize the urgency and the necessity of the undertaking. The great colonization plan undertaken by such men as Lord Shaughnessy, Sir Vincent Meredith, James Carruthers, Charles R. Hosmer, Sir Herbert Holt, Sir Charles Gorden, Brigadier-General F. S. Meighen, Huntley Drummond, Colonel W. G. Moreton, R. B. Angus, Sir H. Montague Allan, Sir John Eaton, Sir Joseph Flavelle, Sir Edmond Osler and many other prominent Canadians who have subscribed their money and devoted their time to the organization of this huge enterprise should be judged very calmly by the public.

The theory is that the national war debt will be easier to carry and the per capita taxation will become lighter. It is logical to assume that it will greatly assist the national railways to convert themselves into self-supporting enterprises, so the picture is not so dark after all as between the new research board, active colonization, and a scientific advisory Tariff Board. The machinery is slowly forming, which, when actuated by the unconquerable will of the Canadian people to win, and to win big, will eventually bring contentment and happiness and plenty to the Canadian people who, by their deeds, deserve these things in plenty—food, clothing and shelter for the old and the young.

A proposal to excite discussion at the American Federation of Labor Congress in Montreal is one to unite all trades which work with the scissors and the needle into one union. At present they have four governing bodies. There is likely to be some display of feeling as the Amalgamated Clothing Workers are not affiliated with the Federation of Labor and are said to have attempted to foment a sessionist movement.

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Unemployment Losses Far In Lead of Strike Losses

Washington, May 22. — Losses through strikes "are relatively unimportant, as compared with the losses from unemployment of the regular, orthodox, undramatic type that doesn't get any newspaper advertising," said Dr. Royal Meeker, commissioner United States bureau of labor statistics, in a recent speech that is published in the current issue of the Monthly Labor Review, issued by the bureau.

"The cost of strikes is commonly displayed as losses of wages to the strikers, loss of profits to the employers, and loss of interest on capital invested. These estimates are necessarily crude and often misleading. It sometimes happens in a big strike that the curtailment of production results in such a share advance in the price of the product that the employer makes not a loss but a net gain. In such a case idle capital earns more for the owners than busy capital.

"It would be more accurate to calculate the material losses of a strike in terms of product unproduced and then allocate the losses between the several parties at interest, taking account of changes in prices and wage rates in the industry.

"Strikes and lockouts have contributed their thousands to the ranks of the out-of-work workers, but irregularities and failure in supplies of raw materials, transportation and demand for commodities produced, and lack of proper organization in industry, have contributed their millions.

"No statistical statement is possible, for no accurate information exists as to the time lost by reason of strikes, to say nothing of our almost 100 per cent. of ignorance of the time lost due to other causes. We do know, in a general way, that unemployment has existed during prosperous conditions of industry to an appalling degree.

"For years the states of Massachusetts and New York published figures showing percentage of unemployment among trade union members in those states. In Massachusetts the unemployment percentage among unionists rises to 17.9 per cent. in 1914, while the minimum at any time since 1908 was 2 per cent. in 1918. The unemployment percentage is even greater in New York state. The percentage of unemployment among non-union workers is always higher than among union members. This was especially true of the United States before the war, when it was the deliberate policy of the largest employers of labor, especially unskilled or semi-skilled labor, to keep on tap as it were, a large reserve force of labor upon which to draw in case of strike or any emergency requiring additional men.

"No definite statistical information exists, but from a study of such strikes as have come to my attention, I am convinced that strikers today, as always, are insignificant in causing stoppage of work in comparison with unemployment due to dearth of raw materials, lack of orders for output, insufficient transportation, lack of a properly balanced organization, lack of an intelligent employment policy for handling men, failure to gain and keep the good will of employees, failure to make use of the tremendous latent creative force lying dormant in the workers.

"The cost of this most costly and destructive of all industrial hazards, unemployment, is appalling. Its money cost, reckoned in terms of product unproduced, services unrendered and capital goods lost or deteriorated in value, I estimate, or

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guess, would amount to more than half of the value of the yearly product of all our industries. This means that we are operating our industries on a 66 2-3 per cent. efficiency basis and are losing, by not producing, something like \$35,000,000,000 a year, just because we have not yet recognized that ignorance, however blissful, is mighty expensive."

Commissioner Meeker's statement on strikes and their losses, as compared with the greater losses through unemployment, is similar to a recent statement by Dr. Hugh

S. Cumming, surgeon general United States public health service, who showed that strike losses were trifling as compared with the staggering losses to this country through preventable diseases.

The medical man stated that the average mortality from typhoid fever to 13,000 a year and that one death corresponds to from 400 to 500 sick days. In 1918 there were 150,000 deaths from tuberculosis, with each death representing 500 sick days. There are 7,000,000 cases of malaria fever annually, with a loss of several days in each case. In 1918 there were 290,000 deaths from pneumonia, with each death representing 125 sick days.

HAVE BAD HEADACHE.

Spokane, May 22. — To use a figure of speech members of the Employers' association have a bad headache as a result of their extensive anti-trade union campaign in this city.

The bosses started out to establish the non-union shop, which they called "the American plan." The workers showed they are good Americans by standing together, and they now present this 1,000 per cent. batting average:

Stationary engineers enforce their scale, transfer employers abandoned their non-union shop demand and signed with the Teamsters' union, every construction job in the city is union, bakers secured new contract and the culinary crafts lost but one small house when they establish new rates on May 1.

"No unions are on strike", says the Labor World. "The bottlers will be granted their increase. The butchers are making splendid progress in the signing of their contract, and all in all the movement is in fine shape, notwithstanding that the attempt to establish the non-union shop cost the Employers' association a lot of money for advertisements that were untruthful and malicious."

Machinists of the Canadian General Electric Company, at Peterborough, are on strike.

* * *

Colonel Grant Morden, M. P., addressing the Canadian Manufacturers Association, declared it was the intention of the British Empire Steel Corporation to include representatives of the employees on the directorate.

* * *

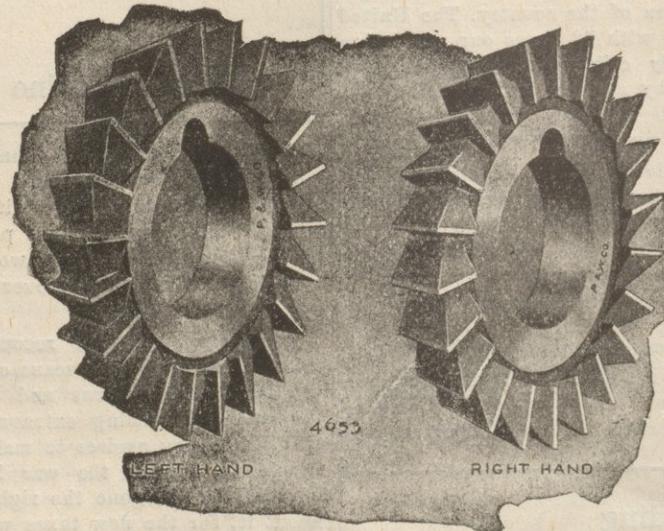
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Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent)

DURING the past week Parliament has produced a more than ordinarily fruitful crop of interesting events. The advent of the Budget can always be relied upon to give a fresh lease of life to the session; Sir Robert Borden has made his first speech since he set his foot again upon his native hearth; and the Government narrowly escaped defeat upon a vital issue. The details of the Budget have been given very fully in the daily press (and a summary of them is provided elsewhere) so that it only remains to

offer some observations and criticisms.

In the first place, Sir Henry Drayton deserves some commendation for his professed determination to make an end of the perpetual borrowing to which his predecessor resorted. Great Britain and the United States have paid a considerable proportion of their war bill out of taxation, levied chiefly on the richer classes, but, thanks to the timorousness of Sir Thomas White, we have not paid a cent of our war costs out of taxes, and our borrowings since 1914 are actually just about on a par with our war expenditure. Sir Henry may not be able to keep his good resolutions, but his promise to try to make ends meet out of revenue is a step in the right direction.

The western Unionists will make great play with the removal of the balance of the customs war tax which is claimed will cut \$30,000,000 off our tariff burdens. It is however, a case of "Thank you for nothing" as, in the first place, it ought never to have been imposed, in the second it ought to have been removed altogether last year. When Sir T. White removed part of it in 1919 he spoke with a martyr's air of losing many millions of revenue, but thanks to rising prices the customs revenue actually showed an increase and it may well be the same in 1920-21. Last year we collected from the tariff no less a sum than \$169,000,000, or practically \$20 per head of the population of the country. The United States with 12 times our population actually collected only 8 per cent. more by customs levies, viz.: \$183,000,000 in their last fiscal year, which amounts to \$1.65 per head.

Obviously, the incidence of the tariff burdens upon our neighbors is featherly compared with upon us. Mr. Calder and his western Unionists have failed in their efforts to make any real inroad upon the main protectionist trenches.

Sir George Foster and Sir Edward Kemp are still able to impress their economic views upon the Coalition and perhaps the most important part

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of the Budget was the announcement of the Coalition fiscal policy. Sir H. Drayton gave a definite promise. He also declared that protection for Canadian industries would be a basic principle of whatever fiscal system was devised.

Sir Henry has had recourse to sales and luxury as a means of raising additional revenue and simultaneously of curbing extravagance.

If Sir Henry aspires to make the people know that the war has to be paid, he has gone the right way about it, for the new taxes will hit every pocket in the country and hit hardest the people with constricted incomes. The sales tax will be passed on to the ultimate consumer by the manufacturer, the wholesaler and the importer, and each of them will probably add his usual percentage of profit to the amount of the tax inflation.

At a time there is a general smashing of prices in the United States and numerous signs of a parallel movement on this side of the line, here the Government comes

along with a budget which sweeps away any hope of lowering the cost of living.

The sales tax will be most cumbersome to collect and will drive the storekeepers to despair. To deal with it and the luxury tax there will be needed an extreme army of bookkeepers and troops of officials, and the latter's salaries will swallow up a large part of the proceeds.

As for the luxury tax itself Sir Henry is wrong if he thinks that in these days boots at \$9 a pair or women's dresses at \$60 constitute a luxury. But the fact remains that the most ordinary articles of wearing apparel will have their cost increased by the luxury tax and there will be no mitigation of the daily financial crisis with which half the population of Canada is faced.

The business and financial community were moving heaven and earth to secure the removal of the business profits tax but all they have managed to achieve is to have it reduced in its incidence by about 30

per cent. The extra tax on motors is perfectly prepared as is the increase in the income tax. But even today the average British taxpayer would count himself thrice blessed if he had only to pay our present rates of income tax.

Meanwhile there is no sign of any attempt or desire to make our tribes of profiteers disgorge their ill-gotten hoards. More than one country has enacted a levy on war wealth and Great Britain, even when the Tory party there controls Parliament, is investigating all possible schemes or recapturing war profits for the state. But there is not a whisper of it in our Governmental circles, and when Mr. McMaster during the debate discussed the question, Col. Currie was mightily indignant that any member should even mention the words "levy on capital" in Canada and various Cabinet Ministers looked deeply shocked.

On Monday the 17th Mr. Fielding availed himself of a timehonored privilege on going into supply to raise the question of the Canadian Ministry at Washington, which Sir G. Foster had announced a week previously as a settled fact and moved a resolution asking that the arrangement be not finally consummated till full information had been given to the House and that all Correspondence and orders-in-council relating to the matter should be produced. In a brief but vigorous speech he demanded what was the emergency or reason for desperate haste to justify the Government in bringing so momentous a change almost up to the point of making the actual appointment without consulting Parliament. Sticking to his "old colonial" point of view on Imperial questions he expressed his personal distrust of the wisdom of sending a Minister at all but his main indictment was against the secrecy and hole-in-the-corner nature of the Government's proceedings. He thought the supremacy of Parliament was being deliberately flouted and it was another instance of the Cabinet usurping improper authority. Mr. Rowell who has been acting-Minister of External Affairs devolved the duty of meeting these charges and a feeble defence was all he could offer. As far as possible he evaded the charge of secret diplomacy but to excuse it took refuge in the hoary doctrine that foreign affairs are the prerogative of the Crown and its advisers and publicity would be fatal to their efficient management. It is the time-honored excuse that the British Foreign Office have always advanced to meet any demands for supervision of their performances by the elected representatives of the people, but it will hardly wash these days. It is generally agreed that secret diplomacy played a large part in bringing Europe to its present miserable state and it was one of the

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things which President Wilson in his Fourteen Points, said must be abolished as incompatible with the League of Nations.

It is not a piece of monstrous impertinence to suggest that the only people in Canada competent to pronounce authoritatively upon foreign affairs are the present Cabinet, half of whom probably do not know where either Mosul or Fiume, to name two places of critical interest, is. Will not our foreign policy be all the better for being subjected to the light of open discussion and press criticism? France and the United States both permit their foreign affairs to be submitted to the scrutiny of parliamentary commit-

tees and it has not been observable that their foreign policy has been conducted with any less skill than Britain's? Canada is making a start in the field of diplomacy and she ought to begin with a clean sheet and modern methods. If again two British communities find it necessary to practice secret diplomacy in their mutual intercourse, what hope is there of abolishing it in the wider sphere of foreign affairs? It is suspected that there has been an acute divergence of opinion between Ottawa and Downing Street on the subject of the Washington Ministry and that the concealed correspondence may be controversial in tone, but that is no reason for their sup-

pression. The fact that Canada had a mind of her own about certain matters would help to re-assure public opinion in America about the separate vote which she is given in the League of Nations.

Sir Robert intervened with the first speech he has made since his return. He had read, he said, all the correspondence himself and reached the conclusion that the people of Canada could not be trusted to see it. He did not condescend to state the grounds for his decision. He was convinced the new move would make for better international relations, and made some unkind comments upon the personnel of the British embassy in an oblique way. He presented Mr. King with a magnificent opening which the latter took advantage of. He read out an editorial of the Manitoba Free Press dated May 12 in which the principle of the Washington appointment was commended, but the Government was roundly denounced for its secrecy and the Opposition was urged to press for the fullest information. All particulars it said, should be disclosed and the status of the Minister already defined if he was to be merely a "camouflaged chief clerk" he had better not go at all. Mr. King used his ammunition very well and made the best speech he has delivered this session, driving his indictment home and speaking with vigor and conviction. He was well backed up Messrs. Lapointe and Lemieux and the Opposition had all the best of the argument. When a division was taken at a late hour the normal government majority of 35 had fallen to 5 and if 3 French members had been a little quicker, it would have reached the danger point of 2. All the progressives present voted against with the Opposition.

J. A. Stevenson.

:o:

Unless extravagance is curtailed and production increased we shall face in the next five or six years the most appalling financial crisis the world has never known, declared Sir Robert Kindersley, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company addressing Calgary Board of Trade.

* * *

Only forty per cent. of Manitoba's wheat lands can be worked this summer if the labor supply does not improve.

* * *

Many Ottawa unions have gone on record in support of the strike of the journeymen bakers who are fighting for a closed shop and a nine hour day.

* * *

Boilermakers and their helpers employed at the Campbell Iron and Steel Works, Ottawa, have gone on strike.

* * *

Hamilton electric wiremen, who had been receiving 50 cents an hour, and struck for 90 cents, have accepted 85 cents, and returned to work.

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Tariff Inconsistency

ACCORDING to all predictions the tariff will be the great issue at the next elections. Certainly it looks like being the subject of much disputation and agitation. The Liberals say they believe in lower tariffs, though they do not trouble to be very precise as to what they mean. The farmers are shouting for free trade for manufacturers, unmindful that they also clamored for a Wheat Board which completely abolished free trade in wheat, and gave the farmers the benefit of the finest protective system ever invented. Red Michael Clark will raise the banner of free trade as they have it in England, a country overflowing with customs' officers. The Conservatives will evidently stand pat on the National Policy. The Unionists — well, it does not look at present as if the Unionist party will saw much wood. As for the Labor party, it is in its infancy, and has hardly cut its wisdom teeth.

Tariff debates are more given to declamation than argument. This is unfortunate; it does not make for a well informed public opinion. If the Labor Party was important enough to intervene authoritatively into the debate it could serve a useful purpose. It could compel closer argument; eliminate the often extravagant pretensions of the contending parties. Meantime we have to regret that the Government has not taken the advice of the Railroader, and appointed a Tariff Commission; such a body could collect the data essential to a satisfactory debate on tariff policy.

Our general understanding is that the Conservatives are a high tariff party; the Liberals a low tariff party, sometimes professing free trade; and the farmers a free trade party, intent on protection for themselves to the extent of a guaranteed price for wheat, and a monopoly of the sale of their product. In politics consistency is not a virtue. We were told that when the Liberals came to power in 1896 they made a very substantial reduction in the tariff. But the fact is that while in 1896 under the Fielding tariff the customs duties were 18 per cent of the total imports, in 1918 they were 16.8 per cent of the total imports, including the

special war customs duty of 7½ per cent, which Sir Henry Drayton has removed. On dutiable imports in 1898 the average tariff was 29.9 per cent, and in 1918 it was 29.8 per cent, again including the war tariff of 7½ per cent. To those studying the tariff question the following figures will be of interest:

YEAR	Dutiable imports in millions	Average Duty
1868	\$ 44 . . .	20.5 per cent
1872	68 . . .	19.2 " "
1873 (Liberal Government)	60 . . .	21.5 " "
1878	92 . . .	25.5 " "
1883	70 . . .	30 " "
1893	59 . . .	30 " "
1895	75 . . .	29.9 " "
1896 (Liberal Government)	227 . . .	27 " "
1911 (Conservative Government)	355 . . .	23 " "
1912	442 . . .	26 " "
1913	542 . . .	29.8 " "
1918	Customs collected in 1918 included a special war tax of 7½%.	

YEAR	Total imports in millions	Customs paid on total imports
1868	\$ 67 . . .	13.1 per cent
1872	104 . . .	12.5 " "
1878	90 . . .	14 " "
1883	121 . . .	19 " "
1893	115 . . .	18 " "
1895	101 . . .	18 " "
1898	126 . . .	18 " "
1910	370 . . .	17 " "
1912	521 . . .	17 " "
1913	670 . . .	17.1 " "
1918	963 . . .	16.8 " "

1818 includes war tariff of 7½%.

These figures show that since the adoption of the National Policy the tariff has been a fairly constant factor, and that on the whole the Conservatives have collected a lower average duty than the Liberals, despite their pretension to be a low tariff party.

COLIN MCKAY.

We Pay; That's Sure, Anyway

SUGAR is 25¢ a pound retail, or 400 per cent dearer than before the war, and it will soon be 27¢ a pound, perhaps before this paper is published. (Reports from Ottawa say that the retail price is 23¢ a pound, but Montreal housewives know better than that). Mr. W. F. O'Connor, K.C., senior commissioner of the Board of Commerce, gives a clean bill of health to the Canadian refiners, who are said to be receiving a net profit of less than 40¢ a hundredweight, and the profit of the Canadian retailers is said to be between 18 and 19 per cent.

Labor and material costs on the plantations and in the refineries, transportation charges, and all other legitimate expenses put together, might show an increase of 100 per cent since 1914. Even such an increase is doubtful; certainly it is doubtful in regard to labor costs. There is no notable shortage of sugar. Where does the other 300 per cent increase come in? We know that we pay 400 per cent more than before the war; that is about all that we know. The unexplained 300 per cent must be somewhere. Did somebody stick it in his pocket? If so, who?

Now, look at potatoes. We know that potatoes cost at least \$7 a bag, or nearly 400 per cent more than in 1914. The retailers and the wholesalers say that they get only a miserable profit, and that the farmer gets about \$6 out of the \$7. If this is true, have the farmers' costs gone up 400 per cent. We don't believe it. The farmer, however, says that he is poorer than ever. Where, then, is the 400 per cent? Has somebody got it in his pocket? If so, who?

We pay; that's sure, anyway.

K. C.



OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, May 7th.

May Day was celebrated in this country as never before. Millions of workers were granted holiday — or took it — and demonstrations of a particularly effective character were held all over the country.

London was painted red with Socialist banners and favors, and a procession which took two hours to pass a given point went to Hyde Park, where from 12 platforms the policy of Labor and the aims of Socialism were vigorously preached. One of the platforms contained speakers who delivered their addresses in English, French, Italian, Russian, Polish and several other languages, not forgetting Esperanto. It was a memorable and not-to-be-forgotten day.

After a conference extending over four and a half hours the Railwaymen's Central Wages Board was unable to arrive at an agreement with regard to the claims for increased wages put forward by the National

Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

It will now be necessary to refer the applications to the National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Wages Board. Under the terms of the agreement, by which these bodies were set up, no strike can take place until the matter has been before the latter board for a month.

In view, however, of the serious unrest which has manifested itself in various parts of the country, the position is not without danger.

The Central Board is to meet again in a day or two to settle the exact terms of reference to the National body, and it may be taken for granted that the latter will meet as quickly as possible.

From the National Union of Railwaymen the application is for a flat rate increase of \$5 per week. The associated Societies have a more elaborate programme, and while the figures have not yet been officially disclosed, they are believed to repre-

Hickory Nut Fudge
make it for your guests
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Lantic
Old Fashioned Brown Sugar



3 cups Lantic Brown, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cream or milk; boil till soft ball forms in cold water. Add 2 cups nut meats and beat to a cream. Be sure you use Lantic Brown and get a perfect result.

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Can you guess it?

There are housewives whose cake is always praised—whose pastry is famous for its melting flakiness—whose firm, light bread wins daily compliments—whose puddings are noted for savoury lightness—whose cookies are so lastingly crisp.

They have one rule that applies to all their baking

Can you guess it?

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which never fails in its cheerful invitation to breakfast, comes more frequently, more invitingly, when it's

SEAL BRAND COFFEE

that is used. The famous Seal Brand flavour, fragrance and delicacy are sealed right into the Tin.

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Work executed in gold or in rubber at moderate prices. Our offices are under the supervision of experts—not students.

Free Treatment to Poor School Children.

TEETH EXTRACTED PAINLESSLY BY A NEW METHOD

VISITING HOURS 8.30 to 8.30

88 ST. DENIS ST.
 Between Dorchester and Lagauchetiere
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sent increases as follows: Drivers, \$5; firemen, \$3.75; cleaners, \$2.50.

Through the efforts of the Workers' Union and the National Union of General Workers, the workers in the coir mat and matting industry have been organized and a Whitley Council has been set up.

An agreement has been reached for 48 hour-week and for advances in wages which in some cases will amount to \$8.25 a week. The minimum is now \$15, whereas up to last week there were workers getting as little as \$6.75 and many who received only about \$10. Many women workers who have only earned \$4.50 a week are now to have 18c. an hour as a minimum rate. About 4,000 workers were affected. They are among the many others whom the general workers' organizations have raised from a desperately underpaid position.

The dockers' agreement giving them \$4 a day was signed this week at the offices of the Port of London Authority. This has been the greatest triumph the dockers have gained for many a long day.

The strong criticism which Labor members have levelled against the proposed application of the Corporation Tax to the profits of Co-operative Societies is beginning to bear fruit. The Chancellor has now promised that this new tax shall not be applied to the so-called profits of these societies which are returned to co-operators by way of dividends on purchases. This is a step in the right direction, and the Labor Party will now have to fight for the exclusion of the undivided profits of Co-operative Societies, a substantial portion of which is used for education and other social services.

Important questions are to be discussed at the forthcoming conference of the National Transport Workers Federation, which will be held at Southampton in June. The General Union of the Vehicle Workers have tabled a resolution urging the formation of one Union for the transport workers with departmental sections which shall be represented on the General Council. Cardiff coal trimmers want the Fed-



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eration to raise a strike and lock-out fund, while the dockers propose that all unions affiliated shall increase their contributions to a minimum of 25c. per week, 12c. of which shall be transferred to the Federation. Part of this 12c. shall pay for the administrative and organizing expenses, and part for the national strike fund. They suggest further that strike benefit should be so arranged as to secure that every

section of transport workers shall receive the same amount when on dispute.

The National Federation of Building Trade-Operatives has decided that the time has come when vigorous steps should be taken to reduce the cost of living. They realize that in order to break through the vicious circle of wages and prices, the workers must direct their attention to the question of bringing down prices. They have accordingly requested the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress, in conjunction with the Labor Party, to call a special conference to discuss what steps should be taken

to tackle this question. In view of the letter which has been sent by the Food Controller to all Food Control Committees, stating that the Government has decided to discontinue the Committee after June 30th, the need for some action by the workers will soon become imperative. Recent events have shown that prices have immediately risen as soon as control has been removed. Although the Food Controller adds that it is proposed to maintain a substantially reduced number of offices at convenient centres in order to carry on such local food control work as may remain to be done, the prospect is very black for the house-

wife who is already finding it impossible to make ends meet.

As the result of discussion on remedies for the shortage of houses, the conference called by the Mayors of Metropolitan Boroughs passed resolutions urging — (1) That the Ministry of Health be asked to empower local authorities to compel the letting of houses which remain empty, or to take them over and let them after a reasonable time; (2) the extension of direct building by local authorities; (3) the control, central purchase and rationing, with a preference to local authorities, of all building materials; (4) the constitution of a national housing fund by means of votes of credit; in the meantime, the conference would do its best for local housing loans.

An important arrangement was fixed up in the building trades yesterday. It was decided at a conference of employers and the men's federation that in future all agreements shall be on a national basis. This will simplify negotiations considerably and render the danger of section troubles, from which we suffer sadly, much less than it has been.

The building operatives are doing fairly well just now. The housing shortage has reduced unemployment in the industry to next to nothing, wages have gone up, and a 44 hour week is inaugurated.

British Labor delegation has gone over to Russia to investigate conditions there and now a second one has set sail for Hungary. British people are exceedingly anxious to know the truth about these countries, especially as views here are apt to be formed and forcibly expressed with relatively little information or foundation.

Ethelbert Pogson.

LABOR BREVITIES

Montreal Tramways Union is applying for a board of conciliation under the Lemieux Act.

* * *

Ottawa cabinet-makers and millmen demand closed shops and increases ranging from ten to twenty percent and threaten strike if employers do not accede.

* * *

Ultimate ownership of all means of production is what the Labor movement should aim at, President Riley of Calgary Trades and Labor Council told the miners' convention of Alberta which opened last week.

* * *

Ottawa journeymen bakers, who have been on strike since May 2, are willing to arbitrate, but the employers have not been heard from on the subject.

* * *

Extensive damage to the property of the London and Port Stanley Electric Railway has accompanied the strike of the employees. Representatives of the strikers deny having part in the sabotage and say it is the work of an enemy of both the union and the railway.

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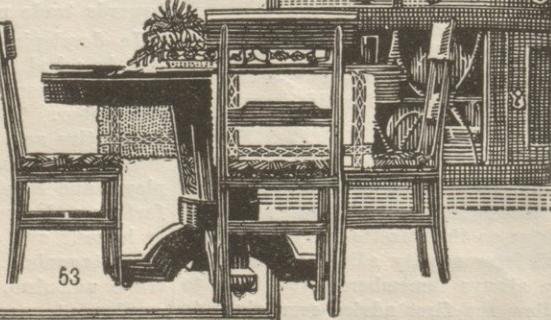
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Paint and Varnish Makers
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This is the Silkstone can. It has a pleasing label printed in gray, orange and black—look for this label.

When You Don't See It In the Other Papers, Maybe You'll Find It In the Railroader

(By KENNEDY CRONE)

BY far the largest assembly of journalists ever seen in Montreal was held in the Oak Room of the Windsor Hotel last Saturday night, when more than a hundred scribes took part in an informal reception organized by the members of the local Newswriters' Union for the members of the Newswriters' Association of Ottawa. There was substantial representation from every newspaper in the two cities and from the Press Gallery of the House of Commons.

Mr. Kennedy Crone, President of the Montreal union, was in the chair, and amongst the guests of honor were: Hon. Charles Marcil, M.P., representing the city; Mr. T. P. Howard, President, Canadian Manufacturers' Association; Mr. J. A. Woodward, President, Fifth Sunday Meeting Association; Mr. James Wright, President, People's Forum; Mr. Boeck, President, Belgian Chamber of Commerce; of the Ottawa Newswriters' Association — Mr. A. E. McGinley (President), Mr. E. Stafford Green (Second Vice-President), Mr. C. J. Ketchum (Secretary), Mr. J. E. March and J. O. Julien (Executive Board);

Mr. H. E. M. Chisholm, Vice-President, Press Gallery; of the Montreal Newswriters' Union — Major Aime Grothe (First-Vice-President), Mr. George Pierce and Mr. Gustave Franeq (Executive Board), Mr. Victorien Barre (Secretary-Treasurer), Mr. S. Lamalice (Recording Secretary), Major Raymond Van Stratum (Sergeant-at-Arms); Mr. James Drury, International Typographical Union representative for Eastern Canada; Mr. J. McLaughlin, International Typographical Union representative for New York. Mr. Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, who was unable to come, sent a message saying that he hoped to get the opportunity of addressing the newswriters at some future date.

Mr. Crone, in welcoming the Ottawa journalists to Montreal, made special reference to the presence of fifteen members of the Press Gallery, including some old colleagues. He referred to the temptation to drop things from the Press Gallery on the heads of the legislators beneath. (A voice — "We look down on them"). At ordinary times a bald head alone might tempt the dropping of a pencil. In moments of irritation and impatience, he could imagine the temptation to drop a bottle of ink or the leg of a chair. He could even understand the temptation that might come now and then to the Gallery men to drop over a few ideas.

President McGinley of the Ottawa Newswriters replied on behalf of the visitors, his remarks being interlaced with quips and sallies. In reference to organization of journalists, he told a story of a rich man who thought he could do the choosing of his own residence beyond the pale. The rich man was told that his money was useless and he could only get something commensurate with the good he had done on earth, so he ended with being given a shack that had no electric fans or other modern improvements. Those interested in organization of the craft would have to remember that they got out only what they put in by way of service. Dues and subscriptions were useless without the souls of men determined to construct organizations bringing good to all.

Mr. Chisholm spoke as representative of the Press Gallery, and Messrs. Greene, Julien and Ketchum also gave brief talks.

Hon. Mr. Marcil said that he was glad as an old fellow-craftsman to be again amongst so many men of the craft. He did not as a rule represent Mayor Martin in social affairs, but he broke the rule this time because he liked to get into the old crowd, even if he were a back number of it. (Cries of "No, no!"). Unionism was in the very air these days, and he was not surprised to find journalists in some places entered into, and in other places seriously contemplating enter-



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ing into, the ranks of unionists. They had good cause, too. For one thing, they were one of the worst-paid classes in the community.

The ordinary citizen who leisurely read his morning or evening paper had no idea of the amount of energy, training and intelligence concentrated on the production of a newspaper, how hard was the life of a reporter or editor, how keenly and self-effacingly many journalists went about their duties. Every newspaper had men on its staff, known only in very limited circles, who did great service for the community in different ways and who had great mental capacity; in almost any other walk of life they would have been famous men. In newspaper work they moved along for lifetimes practically unknown, and, to a large extent, unappreciated.

Mr. Marcil told of some of his experiences and associations as a reporter on the Gazette forty years ago, and later as city editor of the Star. He always remembered and tried to follow the first advice ever given to

him as a reporter — summarize, summarize, summarize. He wished that there was more summarizing in the newspapers. By some strange chance he once had \$1,000, and he and his wife went to Paris, where he was agreeably surprised to find that the French papers and the Paris editions of London and New York papers were small sheets with all the news cleverly condensed and balanced in a way quite foreign to American and Canadian newspapers. One got all the news that was needed in little space, easy of digestion and understanding.

In the old days that he remembered, Canadian newspapers were small and those with circulations of 2,500 a day were supposed to be doing remarkably well. This was the day of big circulations, and the papers were loaded with such great volumes of advertising that it was a task to carry several home on a Saturday! The old type of paper which depended for its popularity on its editorial and the personality of its editor had given place to the paper in which the news was the leading feature and editorials occupied a very third-rate place.

He said it was a plain statement of fact that journalists as a class were notably free from prejudices; their calling, with all its mixings and criss-crossing of lines of contact, and close touch with the realities of life, gave to them a broad and all-embracing vision which it was good for men to have. In this Province in particular, where most journalists spoke the two languages and mixed daily with fellow-craftsmen and other persons of the other race, there was an understanding and general recognition of the concord in which the two peoples very hopeful aspects. He emphasized the importance of knowing the French language, not only in Canada but in connection with the greater boom that Canada hoped to make in foreign markets, and also made reference to the concord in which the two peoples lived in the Province of Quebec, where the English minority had no ground of complaint against the French majority.

That the Press was mightier than the sword, that an enlightened Press could prevent war or other chaotic conditions, and that an obligation on journalists was to help towards stabilizing affairs by inspiring more general application of the Scriptural injunction to do unto others as you would have others do unto you, were amongst the themes dealt with by Mr. T. P. Howard. He spoke of the development of natural resources of which the country was much in need, of the merits of the entente cordiale between the two predominant races, and of the modern view of employers towards trade unionism.

In developing the last-named subject, he asked the journalists to please get away from the terms of Capital and Labor. They were not correctly descriptive and led to a good deal of misunderstanding. The terms of Employer and Employee were more satisfactory and correct. He was a laborer himself and proud of it. He had no antagonism to the principles of trade unionism, which permitted the employee to meet the employer as man

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to man. A great many people had the idea that unionism was concerned only with increasing wages, which was a serious error. Through unionism the employee was coming more and more into consultation with the employer on matters of mutual interest, and the workers through their elected representatives were having more and more representation in the councils of industry. "I think that the time has come when unions are bound to be recognized more than ever before by manufacturers, by newspaper proprietors and by everyone else." Manufacturers gave considerable revenue to newspapers in the form of advertising, and if newspapers should decline to deal with their men in unions manufacturers might have something to say about it. He knew many journalists and understood something of their abilities and the conditions under which they worked. Consequently, he had a great deal of sympathy with them when they got together to improve their conditions and raise the standards of their craft.

Short addresses on unionism of journalists were given by Major Grothe, and Messrs. Franeq, Drury and McLaughlin. Mr. Drury read a telegram from Quebec newswriters announcing their intention of forming a union. Mr. McLaughlin told of a distinct undercurrent of desire for unionism amongst newspapermen in New York, partly, he thought, as a protest against schools of journalism dumping in their students to undercut the professional newspapermen, who had also to start in to teach the newcomers. Foreign garment workers in New York were making a lot more money than trained newspapermen, because they had unions. Actual formation of newswriters' unions, however, was not definitely within sight, though he had hopes. For his part, he did not seek to organize men, but if they showed that they were determined to organize they would find him on the job to help.

(With the exception of Le Canada, no Montreal newspaper reported this meeting.)

BANK OF MONTREAL STATEMENT LENDS CONFIDENCE IN SITUATION

Bank in Half-Year Report to Shareholders shows large increase in Current Loans to Canadian Manufacturers and Municipalities—In position to meet requirements of expanding business.

The half-yearly statement of the Bank of Montreal reveals a condition that will lend confidence in the financial condition of the country.

Just at the present time, the whole world is passing through a particularly trying period as regards credit and accommodation. On this account, the statement of the Bank of Montreal makes its appearance at a most opportune time, both for Canadians who desire to get a better appreciation of the standing of the country, as well as for outside financial interests who may be scrutinizing the affairs of the Dominion.

In the transition from war to

peace conditions and in meeting the much larger requirements of the industries and commerce of the country there has been a very marked increase in commercial loans, as well as in the assistance given to cities, towns, municipalities and school districts. There have also been notable increases in all classes of deposits.

As compared with a year ago, there is a marked expansion in all departments, and as a result, total assets now stand at \$571,150,138, against \$489,271,197 a year ago. Of the total assets, liquid assets amount to \$302,821,820, against \$293,980,708 last year, while total current loans and loans to cities, etc., have gained to \$253,637,259, compared with \$183,668,858, an increase of approximately \$70,000,000.

Both classes of deposits have shown steady advances during the year, and deposits not bearing interest now stand at \$157,790,000, against \$124,736,000 a year ago, while deposits bearing interest have now reached a total of \$312,317,174, up from \$269,167,111. This represents a gain in total deposits for the year of approximately \$77,000,000.

The Profit and Loss Account shows a slight gain, as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. This is probably due to the very much larger business the Bank is now holding. Net profits for the six months to April 30th amounted to \$1,802,585, as compared with \$1,751,237 in the corresponding period last year. After the payment of dividends and making reservation for bank premises and war tax, the balance carried forward totalled \$2,090,440, against \$1,661,614 at the end of April a year ago.

Throughout the unprecedented conditions of the war period, the Bank of Montreal was reported to be following a very conservative policy, in order to prepare for any conditions which might arise during the period of readjustment. The country is now reaping the advantage of this policy and at the same time the Bank is in a position to keep pace with the expanding business of the country.

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JUSTICE AND THE POOR

(By JOHN KIDMAN)

At a time, when the question of establishing a Legal Aid Bureau is being studied, by two social welfare organizations in Montreal, this book "Justice and the Poor", edited by Reginald Heber Smith, of the Boston Bar, and published by the Carnegie Foundation, for the Advancement of Teaching, is most opportune in the information it affords on experiments which have already been made. It is shown by the author that while the intention of the administration of justice in the United States is that all shall be equal before the law, yet, owing to the growth of the industrial system, the development of large cities, and the massing of men and women of all nationalities, the tendency has been for the poor and the uneducated to suffer from the machinery of the law. This defect is manifest in three directions: (1) delay, (2) the preliminary fees and costs of filing legal documents, and (3), the cost of legal advice and conduct of cases. "It is the wide disparity between the ability of the richer and poorer classes to utilize the machinery of the law, which is, at bottom, the cause of the present unrest and dissatisfaction," says the writer. "As to the evil of delay, it is pointed out that this works to defeat justice in two ways, first, by making the time required to bring a case to final judgment so long that persons unable to wait, abandon litigation, or, second, compromise in a way that is manifestly unfair to the humble plaintiff who is fighting an employer or a capitalist is submitted to. Against this evil of delay, the remedy suggested is the simplification of procedure and the establishment of municipal courts where petty claims will be dealt with at once.

On the subject of costs, figures are cited which indicate that while they have not been abolished, they have been very sensibly diminished in these municipal or people's courts, in the United States. At the same time, it appears that the actual costs in the ordinary courts are more or less sheer profiteering to-day, for instance, there is a charge of twenty-five cents for copies of documents which are struck off by carbon paper on a typewriter, whereas in former days the copy had actually to be reproduced by hand. This is only one instance of how conditions have changed, but the process of the law ignores such changes; and, indeed, this is one of the principal arguments used, that present-day conditions have largely outgrown the machinery of the law, with the result that the poor suffer thereby.

The Public Defender

The need of the Legal Aid Bureau is evident still more when one comes to consider the criminal

courts. It is shown by the writer that "everybody who investigates a case for trial—from the complainant on through the police, bureau detectives, and the prosecuting counsel is on one side. If the evidence shows the prisoner to be not guilty, the protections of the law operate: but nowhere in this system is any provision made for ascertaining the facts or the law in favor of the accused. Many defences are affirmative in their nature, as character evidence, self-defence, alibi, and the bias or malice of the complaining witness."

The case for the need of these Legal Aid Societies or Public Defenders is amply made by the writer, so that the chief point of interest for those concerned in establishing such help in Montreal lies in the question of what form it should take. Apparently the experiment of Assigned Counsel in the criminal courts has not worked very successfully; as the tendency is to employ young but inexperienced lawyers on this work.

Then there remains the point as to whether legal aid should be provided by the State or through a charitable body, also whether the civil and the criminal phases of the work be operated together. There is a good case for the State at least providing a Public Defender in the criminal courts: but knowing the present conditions both in the province of Quebec and in Canada generally, it would seem that the only way to induce the State to take up this work will be for private enterprise, through certain societies, to show the way. A Legal Aid Society need not be necessarily all charity. At the annual meeting of the New York Legal Aid Society recently, it was reported that during 1919, over 34,000 cases were handled at an expense of \$47,050. Amounts recovered for clients totalled \$130,860; fees and commissions paid to the society totalled \$11,500, and the amount recovered without litigation was \$45,700 and with litigation, \$52,000. On the Criminal Defender's side, it is shown that in Los Angeles, Portland, Omaha and Columbus, excellent work has been done, this officer being appointed by the States in which these cities are, and at Los Angeles so great was the success of this officer in the higher courts that a similar officer was appointed to the city police court. "It is not enough for the law to intend justice," says Henry S. Pritchett, president of the Carnegie Foundation, in a foreword to this book: "It must be so administered that for the great body of citizens, justice is actually attained. The widespread suspicion that our law fails to secure justice has only too much basis in fact. If this suspicion is allowed to grow unchecked, it will end by poisoning the faith of the people in their own government and in law itself, the very bulwark of justice."

John Kidman.

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MONTREAL, Quebec

THE JOYS OF THE DAY IN THE PARK

(By Roy CARMICHAEL)

Every once in a while we hear someone lament that Montreal does not possess, as other cities do, a zoological collection or a botanic garden. Every time we hear that wail we wonder whether the grumbler has put himself to the trouble of finding out just what Montreal has to offer in the way of out-of-door attractions, and taking it for granted that he knows of the existence of Mount Royal we ask "Have you been to Lafontaine Park?" Nine times out of ten we secure the expected admission. He has not. The tenth time we are told "Oh yes, I visited it during the Fair", when for a week or so Lafontaine took on the guise and garnishes and noise of what is known as amusement park. The fact is that the city's daintiest and most alluring breathing place is unknown to the three-fourths of the English-speaking people, and on their first visit thereto they are pleasantly thrilled with the feeling that they are in another city, if not another country. As one after another its attractions are unveiled their surprise is manifest, and they come away impressed with the feeling that after all the City of Montreal has not been so neglectful of the human need of its populace for relaxation as they had supposed.

The time to see Park Lafontaine at its best is early summer. The refreshing greenery of grass and trees is restful to the nerves harassed by the city's sights and sounds. There is a witchery about its heights and valleys that carries one in imagination off to holiday land. When the first glimpse of the glittering lake reveals its surface dotted with shallop and canoes, among which the motor-driven gondolas dart with a merry freight of laughing children the holiday illusion is complete. And if such be our mood we can ourselves become aquatic sportsmen—beneficent city fathers have provided the equipment, and all that is demanded of us is a modest fee.

This is real welfare work, we reflect, as we watch the crowds of humble toilers, many of evident foreign birth, enjoying within a few minutes walk of the narrow noise-some streets that flank the "Main" pleasures that the wealthy think they can only secure at the end of a lengthy journey. And the story is not complete. Wandering across the bridge which spans the grotto with its waterfalls, a source of never-ending delight to tiny visitors, climbing the hill and traversing some shady paths we find ourselves at the children's playground. No rich man's child has a better opportunity to cultivate simultaneously health, agility and laughter than have the little visitors to this juvenile paradise. All the devices of the gymnasium and the fair are at their serv-

ice, and, presiding genius of the place, a child-loving guardian wards away all danger and settle all disputes. Had the citizens in general an idea of the joy a visit to this playground would give their children, surely it would be thronged?

Watching the little ones at play we discover the opportunity to play is also ours. Lawn tennis courts invite us, and ours is the misfortune and the fault if we fail to take advantage of the chance to breath deeply and try the elasticity of unused muscles.

At least we can resume our walk. Again skirting the lake, beyond the bridge and waterfall, a quacking and cackling from a little islet gives us a peep into the wilds. Keen eyes can discern among the blushest, or, diving in the rippled water, many birds of varied plumage, which for lack of

more intimate ornithological knowledge we classify, with an airy generality as "ducks". Interesting little fellows are these waterfowl; and, seated on a bench opposite their sanctuary, one finds it more amusing, to watch them than to read the makazine or newspaper which so many think necessary to while away boredom in the parks.

Continuing the circuit we arrive at the conservatory. Most people pass it by, believing it to be a mere forcing house for the city's gardens. We are more inquisitive, and approaching the door find there a notice outlining the hours at which the public are admitted. We are lucky within the "open season", and are able to inspect a botanical display, whose splendor is utterly unsuspected by the average visitor to the park. In proof of this we find we

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have the conservatory to ourselves. What more could the millionaire demand for his expenditure on floriculture? The semi-tropical atmosphere of the glasshouse does not conduce to a long visit, so outside in a few minutes we glance around again. This time it is the aviary that attracts us. Not even the flowers give us more color thrills than do the silver and golden pheasants. The horned owls blink reflectively, hoarding who knows what stores of nature's wisdom behind their broad foreheads. Sphinx-like they awe us with their solemnity so we pass on to another object lesson.

A crowd surrounds an enclosure. Surely there cannot be a fight. These beautiful surroundings do not encourage such a thought. We approach. The crowd is silent and watchful. It is waiting. For what? From behind a knoll there strolls the wonder bird of the world—a peacock. He gazes with a mixture of scorn and calculation in his eye. The crowd is not large enough. He will wait. Two minutes later, then a long drawn. "Ah-h". The peacock has exemplified the old-age story of its vanity. Spreading its beautiful tail into a fan full eight feet wide it slowly revolves, with the air of a mannequin displaying Paris fashions. The crowd makes the usual admiring comments. The peacock's humdrum mate hurries up and joins the adulation. The show is over—till another crowd has gathered.

Feeling we have satisfactorily answered the reflection that Montreal provides no amusements for its people, no zoo, no botanic gardens, we repeat our counter thrust—"Have you visited Lafontaine Park?"



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Encouragement of Canadian Shipbuilding

(By COLIN MCKAY)

EX-SERVICE men, employed in the shipbuilding yards of Canada, recently sent a delegation to Ottawa to urge the Government to take measures to assure the continuance of the industry upon which they now depend for a livelihood. Their idea is that the Government, if it does not intend to go on letting contracts for a national fleet, should pay a bonus on ship construction, as the Governments of some other countries are doing. They protested that they were not seeking charity for the industry or its employees. They argued that the shipbuilding industry is entitled to some form of encouragement, comparable with the great measure of public assistance given railways in subsidies and guarantees, or to that accorded various manufacturing industries through protective tariffs.

Suppose Canada granted a bonus of \$20 per ton on ship construction — less than Italy is paying in bonuses on hulls and engines. How much tonnage would the Canadian shipbuilders have to construct in order to obtain as large a measure of public assistance as our railway builders have received.

Hance J. Logan, of Amherst, told the St. John Board of Trade the other day, that the public assistance given Canadian railways in various forms aggregated \$1,250,000,000.

At twenty dollars a ton Canadian shipbuilders in order to be entitled to the same measure of public assistance would have to build 62,000,000 tons of shipping — a pretty tall order, as the world's shipping today only totals 42,000,000 gross tons.

In this question of establishing on a permanent basis the Canadian shipbuilding and boatbuilding industry there is involved a capital of \$58,000,000, according to Government returns covering 1918. In ship building and repairing the investment was placed at \$56,299,033, while in boat building and repairing the investment was placed at 1,145,906. In shipbuilding the number of employees was given as 21,533 men and 212 women; in boat building the male employees numbered 730 and the women 8. Probably these figures are greater at the present time.

In 1918 Nova Scotia was credited with 47 shipbuilding yards; British Columbia with 15; Ontario with 13; New Brunswick with 5; and Manitoba with one. Ontario had 56 boatbuilding establishments; Nova Scotia 25; Quebec 14; British Columbia, 11; Alberta 2; P. E. I. 2; New Brunswick 1.

In that year the salaries and wages paid in the shipbuilding industry amounted to \$26,385,379, and in boatbuilding to \$763,249.

But the move of the ex-service men to induce the Government to take measures to establish shipbuilding on the permanent basis affects more than 22,000 persons directly employed in the industry. Their families are of course concerned — probably a hundred thousand people. Then various allied industries are keenly interested — most of the engineering trades, the steel workers, lumber workers, rope makers, equipment makers and many sorts. The miners of Nova Scotia are interested too, for last summer many of them were idle because of the shortage of ships to carry coal to the St. Lawrence markets. All the manufacturers and traders of the country are interested for that matter, since the country which is able to carry her foreign commerce in her own bottoms has the best chance of success in the struggle for world trade.

Before the war Maritime shipbuilders asked a bonus — less than \$10 per ton. They also wanted to import certain materials free of duty. Their requests did not attract much attention. But since then the shipbuilding industry has grown; its interests are now big enough to command attention. And whatever the people as a whole may think of the demands the ex-service men will make upon the Government, it is worth remembering that they are in line with the policy adopted in France, Italy, Japan, and other countries; in line too with the National Policy of encouraging infant industries.



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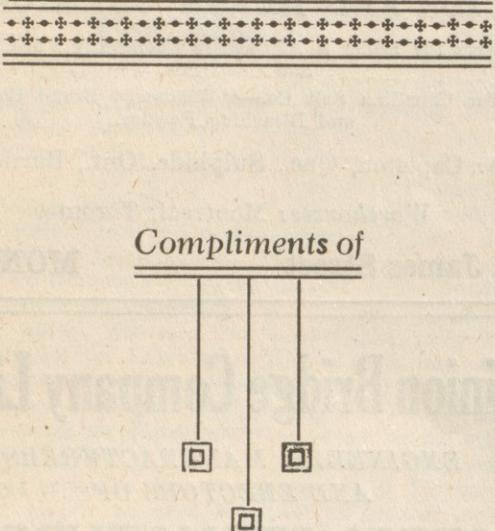
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Department of Labor Employment Report

Reports from over 5,300 employers to the Dominion Headquarters of the Employment Service of Canada, Department of Labor, indicate that, disregarding loss of time due to strikes, there was another increase in the volume of employment during the week ending April 24 in comparison with returns from identical firms for the preceding week. An increase had been anticipated but the actual additions were substantially larger than had been estimated. For the week ending May 1 a further large increase was expected. In comparison with the returns for January 17 the reports show that since then these firms had made very considerable additions to their staffs.

The returns indicate that increases were recorded in all the provinces, that in Quebec being especially substantial. For the week ending May 1, Nova Scotia was the only province to anticipate having a reduction and the estimated decrease there was nominal in character. In comparison with the figures for January 17, Alberta alone registered a decline, all other provinces showing large increases.

Reports for the week ending April 24 were tabulated from 5,327 firms with 742,309 persons on their payrolls as compared with 736,649 employees for the preceding week and with 719,798 persons on their payrolls in the middle of January. Firms in twenty-three groups reported that they had made additions to their staffs amounting to 7,073 persons since the end of the preceding week. On the other hand, nine industrial groups reported decreases aggregating 1,413 persons. The net increase, therefore, during the week of April 24 as compared with the returns for April 17 was 5,660 persons or eight-tenths of one per cent. This increase is the largest increase yet registered with the exception of the recovery consequent upon the declines recorded during the holiday and inventory period at the beginning of January. For the following week twenty-four groups anticipated taking further additions amounting to 4,887 persons and six industries anticipated showing

an aggregate decline of 203 employees, an increase on the whole of 4,684 persons or six-tenths of one per cent, being anticipated. In comparison with their returns for January 17 these 5,327 establishments reporter a net increase of 22,511 persons or three and one tenth per cent. Twenty-two groups may be classified as plus industries in this comparison with their total gains amounting to 33,522 persons. On the other hand, nine industrial groups showed minus tendencies, chiefly seasonal in character, the net losses since the middle of January aggregating 11,011 employees.

Plus Industries.

The largest increases during the week of April 24 in comparison with the returns from identical employers for the preceding week were in Lumber and its products, Railway Construction and Logging in which groups respectively 1958, 1883, and 788 persons were additionally employed. The increase in Lumber and its products was the largest yet recorded in any one week and represent the commencement of saw-milling operations while the substantial additions registered in Logging would indicate enlarged staffs for river-driving operations. In Railway Construction the increase following the noteworthy additions in the past few weeks shows the resumption of activity in that field.

All three groups mentioned above anticipated making further substantial additions during the week of May 1, that of 1,376 persons estimated in Railway Construction being the largest addition expected. Increases of over 100 persons were registered in Farming, Building Construction, Edible Animal Products, Clay, Glass and Stone, Mineral Products, n.e.s., Pulp, Paper and Painting, Rubber Goods, Textiles, Wood Distillates, Coal Mining and Railway Transportation. Nine other groups reported minor additions. Of the twenty-six plus groups five did not anticipated making further additions in staffs during the succeeding week. Three of these five groups anticipated having slight decreases and two of them expected to show no changes. The largest anti-

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cipated increases were in Railway Construction and Lumber and its Products, as mentioned above, while Logging, Building, Construction and Coal Mining also anticipated making substantial additions.

expected by the minus industries.

In comparison with the figures for January 17 (which, it should be noted, marks the close of the annual inventory period), very substantial increases were reported in Iron and Steel Products, Railway Construction, Lumber and its Products, Pulp and Paper, Textiles, Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries, Rubber Goods and Building and Constructions, firms in which groups registered increases since then of respectively 8930, 7636, 1747, 2707, 2751, 1932, 1093 and 1132 persons. The increases registered in thirteen other groups were all over one hundred persons. On the other hand, since the middle of January, Logging, Edible Animal Products, Edible Plant Products, Leather and Leather Goods, Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries and Local Transportation, those in fur and leather products being seasonal in character. The reduction in iron and steel products is the first decline registered since the beginning of January when the reductions were caused by the annual inventories. Before that period there had been steady increases in this group since the end of August. It should be noted, however, that the shortage of material and fuel, on account of the recent railway strike in the United States, is almost entirely responsible for this decline. Only three of the minus groups, Edible Plant Products, Fur and Fur goods and Leather and Leather Products, anticipated having further though smaller declines during the following week. Iron and Steel Products, Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries, Metallic Ores, Retail Trade, Local and Water Transportation expected to show recovery. The estimated increases of 901 persons and 143 persons respectively in Water Transportation and Iron and Steel Products were the largest increases

Minus Industries.

The large decreases during the week of April 24 in comparison with returns from the same employers for April 17 occurred in Edible Plant Products, Metallic Ores, Retail Trade, and Water Transportation in which groups respectively 464,229, 363 and 132 fewer persons were employed. The decline in minor decreases were reported in Fur and Fur Goods, Textiles, Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries and Local Transportation, those in fur and leather products being seasonal in character. The reduction in iron and steel products is the first decline registered since the beginning of January when the reductions were caused by the annual inventories. Before that period there had been steady increases in this group since the end of August. It should be noted, however,

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expected by the minus industries.

About 350 workers employed by the St. Maurice Lumber Co. in construction work for the International Paper Co. at Three Rivers struck for 50 cents an hour for laborers and 70 for carpenters and other skilled workers, with an eight-hours day. The company offers an increase of 5 cents an hour over the present wages which run from 35 to 50 cents an hour.

* * *

After a day's strike, cabinet-makers employed by Henry Morgan and Company, and the Bromsgrove Guild, obtained the advance in wages and eight hour day they had been striving for.

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J. A. Woodward Is Choice of Car Men

Mass Meeting of Tramways Employees Elect Arbitration Representative

(Gazette, May 25.)

Mr. J.A. Woodward, president of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association, is the choice of the tramways' employees as their member of the board of conciliation, which the men have asked the Minister of Labor to appoint to arbitrate with the Montreal Tramways Company in the matter of demands for higher wages and other concessions.

The decision of the employees was reached at a largely attended mass meeting of the Tramways Employees' Union, held last night at L'Assistance Publique, under the chairmanship of Mr. Aurele Lacombe, M.L.A., president of the Union. The meeting was confined to the members of the union, and a statement made at the close that Mr. Woodward had been selected to represent

the men. Representatives of the union will wait on Mr. Woodward today and ask him to accept. No approach has yet been made to him, but as Mr. Woodward is himself a railroad man, and a keen student of labor affairs, especially as regards matters of conciliation, it is expected that he will accept.

The meeting decided that they will not enter into any public controversy with the company, or the Tramways Commission through the press on the subject of wages or other conditions, but the case for the men will be prepared and submitted to the board of conciliation.

The application for a board of conciliation under the Lemieux Act comes from the men, following the refusal of the Tramways Commission, which is the authoritative body in effect on the other side, that the demands of the men for wages running up to 75 cents an hour could not be granted, and the refusal of the men to accept a counter proposition made by the commission. The men have not yet received a reply from the Minister of Labor as to their request for a board, but the Minister, following usual procedure, has asked the Tramways Company for a statement of their side of the case, and when both cases are be-

fore the Minister, the request will be decided on, and the men confidently expect that the Board will shortly be granted.

Company Has not Acted

The Tramways Company has not yet named its arbitrator. At the last board of conciliation, held a year ago, the company was represented by its legal adviser, Hon. J. L. Perron, K.C. The third member of the board of conciliation is to be agreed upon by the representatives of the men and company, and in case of disagreement, as will very likely be the case, the Minister of Labor will have the appointment of the third member, who will act as chairman.

At the meeting last night the speakers were President Lacombe, J. L. Bourbonniere, and representative members of the various shops. The pension offer of the Tramways Commission was discussed, and played a considerable part in the opinions expressed by some of the speakers. Some, specially the older men, are anxious for a pension scheme along the lines laid down, while others believe that the best policy is to get all possible in the pay envelopes at once.

While the meeting did not commit itself to a course, it was a strongly expressed opinion that the meetings of the board of conciliation should be open so that the public may be cognizant of both sides of the case.

—o—

FEDERAL RETIREMENT PASSED BY CONGRESS.

Washington, May 22. — The house and senate having adjusted different over the Sterling-Lehlbach retirement bill and the first legislations of this character that ever passed congress is now before the president for his signature.

The bill provides for the retirement of employees in the classified civil service of the government who have reached the age of 70. Mechanics, city and rural letter carriers and post office clerks shall be eligible for retirement at 65, and railway postal clerks at 62. All employees must be in the service at least 15 to be eligible for retirement benefits.

The amount of annuity that a retired employee shall receive will be based on length of service and his average basic salary. In no case shall the annuity exceed \$720 a year or be less than \$180 a year. Employees will be required to contribute monthly 2½ per cent. of their basic salaries. This will total about 33 per cent. of the fund. The government will contribute the remainder. It is believed that the employee's contributions alone will finance the fund for several years.

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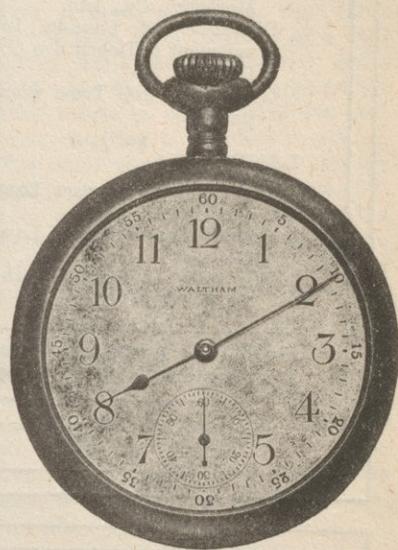
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It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

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To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

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Miners' Housing Is Bad

Washington, May 22.—An uninviting picture of company mining towns is shown by Leifer Magnuson, in his report on this subject, published in the Monthly Labor Review of the United States bureau of labor statistics.

"The average company mining town," he says, "has few of the amenities of ordinary life. There is a dull uniformity in the appearance of the houses and an absence of trees and natural vegetation. Streets and alleys are open dirt roads almost without exception. Sidewalks are very rare."

"The miner's house is without the ordinary inside conveniences found in the house of the city worker. Less than 2 per cent. of the homes in the bituminous coal regions have inside toilets, and running water is rare. Stoves and grates are depended upon for heating."

"The average house of the miner includes about four rooms, in which he must accommodate a family and frequently takes in boarders when there is a housing shortage."

"The desirability of locating the housing near to the mines has frequently been secured at the sacrifice of conditions of health and comfort; thus in the coking region the houses are found placed on neighboring hillsides which have been rendered barren by the gases of the bee hive ovens."

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FAVORS SHORT HOURS

Washington, May 22.—United States Senator Thomas of Colorado criticizes trade unions and their demand for a short workday, but the Colorado lawmaker is not averse to short hours himself. Last Saturday Senator Stirling attempted to have the senate consider the conference report on the retirement bill and the Congressional Record reports:

"Mr. Thomas—Mr. President, I do not intend to interpose any captious objection to the consideration of the conference report, but I am inclined to think that the senate has done enough for this week and should not be required to consider additional legislation before Monday. For that reason, and for that reason only, I shall object to the consideration of the conference report today."

"The vice president—The senator from South Dakota did not ask unanimous consent for the consideration of the conference report, but moved that the senate proceed to its consideration.

"Mr. Thomas—Very well. Then I move that the senate adjourn."

The senate rejected the motion to adjourn, and then Senator Thomas attempted to block consideration of the report by raising a no-quorum point of order. Again he was defeated. Then he consumed time debating another question until the senate finally adjourned without discussing the report, which was adopted the following Monday.

Railroad Crisis Looms

Chicago, May 22.—Immediate consideration must be given railroad employees' demand for wage increases to meet exactions of profiteers, said Timothy Shea, acting president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, before the railroad labor board.

"The railroad workers must have relief, and the must be given relief at once," said the brotherhood executive, who declared that a crisis impends. "I am making no threats," he said, "but simply stating facts."

"One great trouble with the American people is that they never believe that anything disagreeable is going to happen. They wouldn't believe that we were going to get into the world war until we were in it up to our ears. More recently they refused to believe that there would be a steel strike or a coal strike until those industrial disorders were upon us. Now, apparently, they refuse to believe that the railroad situation is absolutely critical. The steel strike cost the country half a million dollars at a comparative estimate, and the coal strike half as much more. Both could have been averted. The lesson in the present situation is obvious."

Mr. Shea said that a comparison of earnings for eight hours of labor showed locomotive firemen ranked seventy-seventh in the list of the various occupation and industries for which authoritative data are available. Only nine occupations have a lower scale than the firemen, he said.

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OUIJA BOARD AT WORK.

Tacoma, Washington, May 22.—The ouija board of United States Senator Poindexter was in fine fettle during the law makers' oration to business men in this city. Things are in bad shape, according to the speaker. Sinister forces are at work and our constitutional form of government, backed by 100,000,000 people hangs by a single thread; revolutionists are among the workers and occupy seats of the mighty; the union shop is a menace; workers should be independent, etc.

The speaker favors legislation that will stop (?). Incidentally he is a candidate for the presidency. He indicated to Tacoma business men that if elected he'll show all divers and sundry agitators where to head in.

The speech ought to assure his campaign managers substantial contributions.

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All unions, at Port Arthur shipyards, are now on strike, and there is not a wheel turning. Seventeen per cent. increase is asked.

* * *

Quebec Railway has recognized the union, agreed on a closed shop and put in force a new scale of wages.

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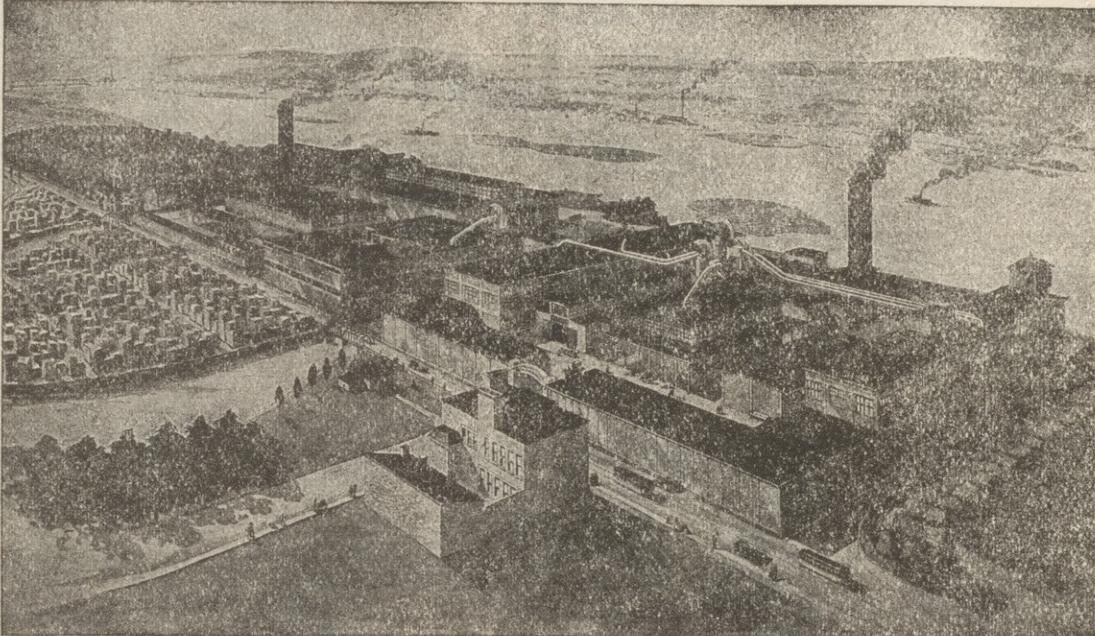
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Trade Union Statesmanship Inspires Organized Workers

Washington, May 22.—“The spirit tax on land held for speculation; that made the defeat of kaiserism possible is not dead: we are using it against American autocrats,” writes one trade unionist to the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee.

This sentiment applies to every section of the country. Trade unionists are determined to use their organized balance of power this fall and cast a non-partisan ballot against defenders of reaction.

Local trade union non-partisan committees are in constant communication with the A. F. of L. committee. The latter has almost an entire floor of the A. F. of L. building devoted to the compiling of records of senators and congressmen, forwarding same to local and central bodies, preparing and circulating literature, answering correspondence and aiding local committees wherever possible.

Vast quantities of literature have already been issued by the national committee. The A. F. of L. reconstruction declarations and the A. F. of L. political demands strike such fundamental notes as free speech, press and assemblage; right to organize and collective bargaining through representatives of the workers’ selection opposition to militarism and the labor injunction:

election of federal judges; Rochdale co-operative system; credits is a social function and should be controlled by a public agency rather than to enrich financiers; deflation of currency and credits; government ownership or control of railroads; nation’s water power must not pass into private hands; government aid to home building.

The above declarations answer the charge of labor’s opponents that the workers demand special privilege. This is the old “stop thief” cry of those who sense danger to their special privileges.

These declarations have no double meaning. They treat of questions that the workers of today are interested in. They are constructive statesmanship and are a contrast to the word wizardry of vote—catching efforts by platform makers of the old school.

The organized workers note the difference. They realize that the great trade union movement is more than a wage movement; that it enters into every human relation, and that it can cope with every force that stands against a brighter day and a higher development.

Another pamphlet, that is widely circulated by the A. F. of L. national committee, is entitled “Forty

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Years of Action.” It summarizes the non-partisan political declarations by the A. F. of L. since its inception in 1881, and refutes the claim that any group of officials is responsible for present policies. This pamphlet quotes history to show that the trade union movement has consistently maintained that our movement is essentially economic: that its guarantees political freedom to every member and that all it assumes is to urge workers to cast an independent ballot in the interest of justice and humanity.

—:o:— PROFITEERING IN CLOTHES

Washington, May 22.—When a man pays \$65 for a suit of clothes these days, he is handing over a profit of \$27.64 to the retailer, according to W. Ett Lauck, former secretary of the national war labor board and consulting economist for railroad employees in their wage movement before the railroad labor board.

“At the present time”, said Mr. Lauck, “the labor cost in producing a suit of clothes is only 20 per cent. of the price taken from the consumer, while 10 years ago the price included a bill of 22 per cent. to labor. So, it readily can be seen that the buyer of a suit of clothes is paying those who labored on the product less, proportionately, than in 1910.

“Although the retailer’s increases have been huge in a monetary sense, they are much less proportionately than those of the manufacturing corporations. Woolen mills’ profits for the present year will approximate five times those taken in 1910, while the garment manufacturers’ profits at the present time are 350 per cent. of their 1910 average.”

It is shown that the largest woolen manufacturing concern in America increased its annual net income from an average of \$1,600,000 in the pre-war years to an annual average of nearly \$9,000,000 during 1916-18.

One of the largest clothing houses in the country increased its profits from an average of \$859,219 in 1912-14, to \$1,625,593 in 1916-18, and \$2,200,219 in 1919.

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Montreal fur workers have appointed Albert Roy to represent local 66 at the interprovincial fur workers’ conference in Toronto on May 25.

CLERGYMEN UNITE

London, England, May 22.—The National Clerical union has been organized for the purpose of securing a living wage for the clergy. Rev. Lloyd Evans, who is acting secretary of the new movement, said:

“The members of the Clerical union have no intention of declaring a strike to enforce any of their demands, but will follow the trend of trade unionism to a considerable extent.”

Secretary Evans declared that the only remedy for low salaries and poor conditions which the clergymen are forced to accept is a strong organization, and if this were backed by public opinion, their demands would soon be obtained.

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“CAN’T-STRIKE” LAWS IS ANCIENT SCHEME

Washington, May 22.—Officers of the A. F. of L. are compiling some of the numberless “can’t-strike” laws passed centuries ago.

Defenders of the Kansas “can’t-strike” law refer to it as a new thing, and Governor Allen of that state is hailed as the modern Solomon, but in the light of history these claims are unworthy of consideration.

Nearly 60 years ago English labor laws were identical with the present Kansas act. The English law empowered the ‘lord’s court’ to set wages and punish strikers. The Kansas act gives this power to a modern ‘lord’s court’ of three men, appointed by the governor.

Under the English law the lord had the first claim to the labor of his selfs; those who declined to work for him were sent to jail.

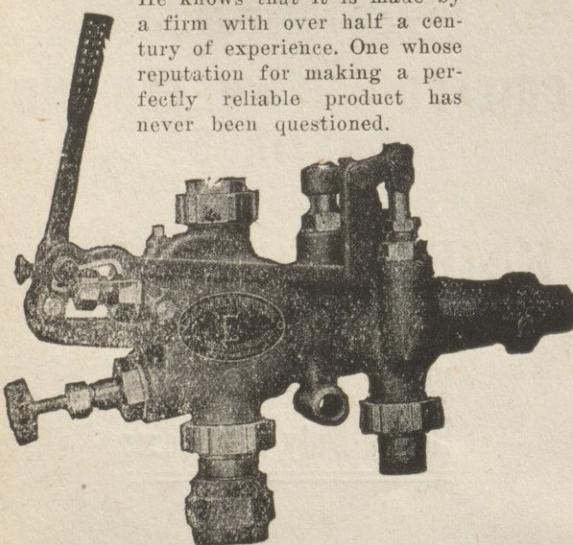
Lords of the manor (land owners) who paid more than the customary wage were fined trebled damages, and artifices (craftsmen) were subject to the same penalty. Any excess of wage above the customary rate could be seized for the king’s use. The law not only regulated wages, but also food prices, and it was declared that “food must be sold at reasonable prices.” Imprisonment was the penalty against any laborer who quit his employment before the agreed time, and alms to any able-bodied laborer were forbidden.

Every student of history knows the result of this legislation under King Edward in 1377.



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